

as prepared

**Ambassador Morningstar's Remarks
at Iftar Dinner
July 10, 2014**

It is a great pleasure to host this iftar dinner tonight. I want to first extend a special welcome to Haji Salman Musayev.

I also want to welcome other distinguished leaders of religious communities in Azerbaijan, government officials, and diplomatic colleagues.

This iftar is a reminder that the sacred month of Ramadan has come again, bringing with it a chance for thoughtful reflection and devotion. Millions of Muslims across Azerbaijan join with millions more around the world in a celebration of cherished beliefs.

Ramadan is also a time to be mindful of the needs of others. It is an occasion when Muslims everywhere reaffirm their commitment to helping the less fortunate.

This month's celebrations remind us of the importance of treating others as we wish to be treated ourselves. Fortunately, Azerbaijan has a long history of mutual tolerance and respect among its many religious communities. We celebrate that tonight as well.

I want to echo President Obama's wishes to each of you for a month blessed with the joys of family, peace, community, and understanding. Ramazan Kareem!